

**Governor's Proposed FY23 Budget Adjustments**  
**Appropriations Hearing**  
**HB 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
Gayle Duska Marx

Good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Gayle Duska Marx, and I am a registered voter in the town of Stratford.

I am testifying regarding HB 5037, the Department of Mental Health and Addition Services (DMHAS) Budget. I am the Program Manager at Bridge House, a psycho-social rehabilitation program in Bridgeport for adults with mental health conditions.

During the Pandemic, Bridge House reached out to our members by phone, texts, setting up a virtual community, and weekly newsletter mailings. All our services were offered pre-pandemic, during the pandemic, and with the help of your increased funding, post pandemic. Without increased funding for our program from DMHAS we could not offer our members the many services that they are so desperately in need of when they come to us. Many of our members come to us homeless, jobless, with family issues, and medication issues. And they are isolated, lonely, and afraid.

Over the past 29 years at Bridge House, I have watched many members get housed, find employment, go to school, and develop meaningful relationships. It is for these many reasons that I am asking for an increase in funding for improving the quality of life for our most deserving members who face mental health challenges in their everyday life. Thank you.